Volume 3, Issue 2

Northwoods Journal

July 2005

Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life

In This Issue

Open House

Hemlock Curve Nature Trail

Saturday, July 9
9 – 11 a.m.

- ***Walk the trail***
- ***Celebrate area history and nature***
- ***Learn about other trails in the works***
- ***Register to win a nature pack***
- ***Enjoy refreshments***

How to get there:
From Hwy 41 in Peshtigo, go south on W. Front Street, the first street west of the river. This street will eventually take you out of town and become Hale Road. Then, turn left onto Harbor Road. After ¾ of a mile, turn left onto Badger Road. The road ends at a gate where limited parking is available. The trail starts at the gate.

Come help us celebrate the nature trail's grand opening!

Peshtigo Harbor Trails Project Continues:

Hemlock Curve Nature Trail Grand Opening

The Hemlock Curve Nature Trail will officially open on Saturday, July 9, with a Grand Opening event. An open house will take place from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for the public to walk the trail and talk to staff about the Peshtigo Harbor Trails Project. Participants can also enter a drawing to win a nature pack full of things a nature enthusiast cannot do without – animal track guide, frog and toad soundtrack, bug spray, hat, water bottle, etc.

This 2.4-mile walking trail has two scenic loops that journey past a soggy river slough, a historic grove of hemlock, sandy riverbanks, and the sparkling waters of the Peshtigo River. Along the way, visitors are invited to learn about the many natural and historic features of this area. The trail guide, available at the trailhead, shows the way to the sites of interest along the path.

The Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area Trails were made possible through a grant from the Wisconsin Coastal Management Project. Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Marinette County UW-Extension used the grant to develop a variety of trails, better access, and supporting educational materials.

The first of these trails, a water trail, opened last fall. The Peshtigo River Canoe Trail takes paddlers on the same path American Indians, early explorers, fur traders, and loggers used as a main "road" for travel and shipment of goods – the river. The canoe trail combines the adventure of small boat travel with the chance to learn about the area and experience it from the same perspective as people of the past. Along the 11-mile stretch, paddlers discover an area rich in local history and nature. The trail's interpretive map helps people plan their trips and tells about the points of interest marked along the trail. Some of these points include natural scenic shorelines, sandbars, wildlife habitat, and reminders from the old logging days.

There are two more trails yet to open in the Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area. In January 2006, the snow will bring to life a cross-country ski and snowshoe trail. The relatively flat landscape and many loops are ideal for kids as well as adults. However, this isn't just a ski trail – it's also a wildlife-tracking trail. Stations along the trail tell about the many wild animals living here and their winter habits. As you ski, you can also look for wildlife tracks and learn how to identify them. The last trail in this project will be a birding trail. It has not yet been decided when it will open due to extensive repairs. However, when it is finished, a four-mile loop will lead hikers through forest, marsh, and past the bay's shore. The change in habitats along this path will offer the chance to see many different kinds of birds. More news will be released in the future about the opening of these trails.

The Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area is a haven of roughly 5,700 acres of state-owned land located along the Lower Peshtigo River. This land includes the Bloch Oxbow State Natural Area and a wildlife refuge near the river's mouth. It is managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to enhance wildlife habitat, protect natural communities, and provide nature-based recreation.

Destination…. Marinette County

Historical Museums

A Step Back in Time

By Aleta DiRienzo

Our county is one that is steeped in history and tradition. We have had our share of hard times, disasters and good times. From the Peshtigo Fire to the smelt festivals, from logging to farming, there is no better way to learn first hand about the past of Marinette County than to visit the six museums that are located throughout the area. They are located in Amberg, Crivitz, Peshtigo, Marinette, McAllister, and Niagara. Each one has an objective that is unique to their particular area with displays highlighting their history. Join me as we visit each museum to find out what they have to offer.

Amberg Museum and Historical Complex
W9289 Nutt Road, Amberg; 715-759-5672
Open: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Weekends and holidays 10am to 4pm
Free will donation

The Amberg museum is located next to the picturesque old town hall near County Road V in Amberg. The complex includes the museum, railroad depot, old house and the town hall. The town hall, built in 1894, is registered on the National Registry for Historical Buildings. In the museum you may look and browse on your own, but in order to see the inside of the depot, house and town hall you must have a guide with you. The main purpose of the museum and complex is to stress that the granite-quarrying era was an integral part of Amberg's history and to show the history of the people that settled and live there. The museum has many interesting pictures of Amberg's past, including, settlers, quarries, farming, logging and businesses. There is a huge display of Potawatomi herbal medicines from a tribal healer. The display tells what each is and what it was used for. There are many other interesting artifacts in the museum, such as an antique sleigh with a buffalo robe, and old fire engine, apple press and Indian relics, to name a few. The depot was the actual depot from Amberg and still has the same pot bellied coal-burning stove in the center. The old house is very charming with the parlor and kitchen set up the way it was in the past, complete with a butchers block and wood cook stove. The town hall is an amazing piece of architecture complete with a hall and stage in the upstairs.

Northwoods Journal
Volume 3, Issue 2

Northwoods Journal focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

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- Land & Water Conservation Division, Marinette County Land Information Department
- University of Wisconsin-Extension

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Marinette, WI 54143
(715) 732-7780
akostner@marinettecounty.com

Check us out on the web at:
www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm

Crivitz Area Museum
104 Oak Avenue, Crivitz; 715-854-3278
Open: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Wednesday through Saturday, 12 Noon to 4pm
Free will donation

The Crivitz Area Museum is located on a peaceful field just south of Crivitz near the High School. The location makes it easy to imagine how the area was in the past. Dedicated in 1990, this museum's goal is to show the history of the Crivitz area in logging and farming. The field location adds to the display of antique farm equipment and the log cabin from a logging camp near Lake Noquebay. Inside the log building is a large diorama of a logging camp. The log cabin even has the original floor where you can see the holes caused by the spikes worn by the loggers. There are many interesting relics inside the log building, from oxen shoes to logging equipment. Inside the museum itself, you can visit an old time doctor's office, schoolroom, and general store. You can also enjoy the large display of Indian arrowheads and other Indian artifacts that were found near Lake Noquebay. The museum is sectioned off into different areas – you can look at a large display of clothing, from navy to army uniforms to wedding dresses of the past. There are dishes, cameras, farm equipment and many other displays to view. There are many photographs depicting the history of the Crivitz area to look at and enjoy.

Peshtigo Fire Museum
400 Oconto Avenue, Peshtigo; 715-582-3244
Open: Memorial Day through October 8th
Daily 9am to 5pm
Free will donation

The Peshtigo Fire Museum is located in the first church that was rebuilt after the fire. This museum tells of the rebirth of Peshtigo after one of the worst fires in American history.

Overshadowed by the Chicago fire that was on the same night, the fire that consumed Peshtigo was worse, with more than 800 deaths. The museum starts with a display of actual artifacts that survived the fire. A glass case holds relics found in 1995 when remodeling the Peshtigo Pharmacy that are believed to come from the old boarding house where 75 people died in the fire. What survived were a few broken dishes, melted glass and a small bible opened to the book of Psalms. To the left of the display case, pictures taken right after the fire are hanging on the wall. The focal point of the museum is the mural on the back wall depicting Peshtigo before, during and after the fire. More displays are housed to the back of the church showing an old fashioned kitchen, boats from the Thompson Boat Factory, relics from a dentist office and a beauty parlor. In the basement are many displays ranging from wood cook stoves, typewriters, bathtubs and a blacksmith shop. Before you leave the museum take a walk through the graveyard to the side of the museum. Among the tombstones are markers with stories about the families during and after the fire. A mass grave is at the back of the graveyard, holding 375 unidentified bodies from the fire.

Marinette County Historical Museum
Stephenson Island (Hwy 41, just before the bridge), Marinette; 715-732-0831
Open: Memorial Day through Labor Day
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 4:30pm (Shorter hours due to road work)
Admission - $2.00 Adults and $1.00 Children

The Marinette County Historical Museum is located on scenic Stephenson Island on the shores of the Menominee River. From the

Wisconsin tourist information building, it is only a short walk over the footbridge. This museum highlights the area's logging, fishing and Indian past. There is a display honoring Queen Marinette, the city's namesake, showing how her trading post might have looked when the Indians and trappers came in to trade furs. There is a large display about the Menominee Indians with many articles of beaded clothing. A birch bark canoe hangs on the wall above the Indian display. The museum also has an original dugout canoe found in Pickerel Pond in Marinette County. The highlight of the museum is a large diorama of a logging camp that shows how the life was of the men working there. The tour guide mentioned that many farmers from the area would go to logging camps to work for the winter and take their horses. The farmers would earn $1.00 per day and their horses would be fed and exercised. Some other interesting articles throughout the museum include furniture from Senator Isaac Stephenson's home and the "1930's Room" with lots of clothing and interesting displays. There is also an authentic one-room log cabin on the premises.

Town of Wagner Museum
County Road JJ East, McAllister
Open: Saturdays 10am to 12 Noon
July through August
Free will donation

This museum is nestled in one of Wisconsin's few remaining two-room schools. On the state's list of historical buildings, it also serves as the town hall of Wagner. The goal of this museum is to show what the people of Wagner did for a living. Most were loggers or farmers and there are many interesting relics from each profession. One of the prized displays is a milk strainer over 100 years old. There are many different artifacts from the old St. Edwards Catholic Church; a pump organ, communion rail, and the sign for the church. Another huge sign from the old McAllister Store catches your eye upon entering the museum. Shelves and the store's counter hold many interesting items from different eras. There are many interesting photographs and news clippings housed in the museum.

Niagara Historical Society
1024 Main Street, Niagara
Open: Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4pm

The Niagara Historical Society Museum is located in scenic downtown Niagara. Located in the Hatton House, the building was originally the Niagara Phone Company. The historical society is in the process of raising money to move into a different location. The focus here is to show what life was like in a paper mill town.

Birding Bulletin

By Greg "The Egg" Cleereman, County Conservationist

Red-eyed Vireo

In June, we discussed the ovenbird, a warbler, and explained what Neotropical migrant songbirds are. This month we look at the red-eyed vireo. The fifty-two-member vireo family is a group of exclusively New World birds. In general, vireos are small (6 inches, 0.6 ounces), mostly yellowish or greenish, with varying amounts of gray, black, or white. If you get close enough to a red-eyed vireo, the unique vireo bill, gray crown bordered by black lines, and black line through the eye become obvious. The namesake red eye is only visible when you are very close and is not a reliable help in field identification. The red-eyed vireo is one of four vireo species that breed in Marinette County.

The lives of Neotropical migrants like vireos revolve around migration. During winter, red-eyed vireos are most numerous in the northern Amazon basin. Vireos return to North America by two routes. The first is a land route along the coast of Central America. The second is a water route in which they fly the width of the Gulf of Mexico with a single stop in Cuba. Whether or not a bird chooses the Gulf may be diet-related. Birds with substantial fat reserves are more likely to attempt a crossing. Individuals lacking adequate reserves tend to orient northwest and follow the coast. If they cross the gulf, vireos fly non-stop for hundreds of miles during which they may encounter storms or headwinds. So why don't they all fly north through Central America? Because the land route exposes them to threats from predators and accidents. Each direction has benefits and risks.

About 200 bird species that breed in North America are Neotropical migrants. Why do they run the risks of migration? Why not just stay south where it's warm? The reason is to take advantage of the seasonally abundant types of food that Neotropical migrant birds need. Flying insects, caterpillars, fruits and nectar, are super abundant during our spring and summer. It is not the cold that drives birds south in the fall, but the lack of food.

Upon arrival at the breeding grounds in spring, red-eyed vireos make up for their small size and drab colors with boisterous song. Few birds sing more persistently than the red-eyed vireo. Starting before the sun comes up, the male vireo sings all day long and repeats its song up to forty times per minute. The song consists of short abrupt robin-like phrases separated by deliberate pauses. We might suppose him to be repeating moderately, with a pause between each sentence, *"look up!...see me?...over here!...this way!...do you hear me?..."* All these phrases are delivered with a rising inflection at the close, and with a pause, as if waiting for an answer.

The best red-eyed vireo habitat consists mature deciduous, or hardwood, forest with a dense understory and a well-developed shrub layer. One naturalist wrote that, " ...undergrowth of slender saplings six to ten feet high seem to appeal to this bird most." About 85% of red-eyed vireos' food consists of insects, especially caterpillars and beetles found in the forest canopy. As one our most common forest birds, their feeding habits make them very important for forest health. These birds eat huge numbers of insects each day. For example, one injured young vireo was hand fed in one day, 40 blue bottle flies, 25 grasshoppers, 15 tent caterpillars, 2 daddy-long legs, 1 dragonfly, 1 locust, 1 spider, 1 inchworm, 1 bee, and 1 butterfly. In decent habitat, there can be one breeding pair every 1.7 acres, with each pair laying 2 to 4 eggs per nest. You can see that raising a family requires eating many insects that would otherwise be damaging our trees.

Red-eyed vireos nest in a horizontal fork of a slender branch, often in a sapling. Hold out your index and middle finger in the shape of a V to imagine the size and orientation of the nest. Nest heights vary from 2 to 60 feet off the ground with the average being 5 to 10 feet. The female builds a nest of grass, paper, bark strips, rootlets, and vine tendrils bound to supporting twigs. The outside of the nest is covered with spider webbing and decorated with lichens.

Fortunately, red-eyed vireos populations seem to be doing well despite habitat degradation and fragmentation both in North and South America. The main threat seems to be forest fragmentation, which leads to increased rates of nest predation and nest parasitism from other birds. Research has shown that fledging success is reduced 63% by parasitism. The number of fledged young per nest drops almost 50% in fragment forest versus continuous forest.

Next time you take a walk in the woods, listen for the distinctive song of the vireo. Think about the long, difficult journey these birds make and the odds they overcome to raise a family.

"I consider myself to have been the bridge between the shotgun and the binoculars in bird watching. Before I came along, the primary way to observe birds was to shoot them and stuff them."

- Roger Tory Peterson (1908-1996)

Marinette County Forest History

The history of the forested land owned by Marinette County is typical of other timbered counties across the Great Lakes Region. Originally, this county was covered with magnificent stands of timber. These forests provided raw material for a thriving lumbering industry from 1880 to 1910.

About 1910, at the close of the logging era, 2/3 of the county was cut over and held for land settlement and farming. Prices of agricultural products remained high because of World War I.

During the fall of 1920 and the following year, agricultural prices dropped causing a long sustained drop in incomes. The new settlers with decreased incomes had difficulty paying operating costs. As land contracts and mortgages become due, many farmers went out of business and consequently property taxes were not paid. By 1924, tax delinquency became an acute problem.

Marinette County recognized the magnitude of the tax delinquency situation and, at the urging of an energetic county treasurer, was one of the first counties to make wise use of tax deed laws.

This county was among the first to participate in the Wisconsin County Forest Crop Laws, with the entry of 14,003 acres in 1930. (It should be noted that County Board adopted this resolution in 1930, but state records indicate acceptance of this first entry in 1933.)

This first Marinette County Forestry ordinance was adopted in July of 1933, and it designated a three-member land committee to administer the county forest. In 1937, the county agricultural agent was appointed as the first administrator of the county forest. Recognizing the need for technical expertise, a graduate forester was hired in June of 1940 as an assistant county agent to assume the technical management of the county forest. This committee was expanded to five members in 1943.

Statutory authority created a partnership between the state and county. The state assisted in financing and technical help and provided fire protection with ranger stations built at Wausaukee, Goodman, Pembine, and Pound. Counties provided the land, determined local policy, provided additional financing and management and governed all fiscal affairs through the Forestry and Outdoor Recreation Committee of their county boards.

With the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), Marinette County got started quickly in reforestation of barren lands. Marinette County is one of the leading counties in the state in number of total trees planted, and the greatest number of trees planted in any one year. Between 1933 and 1942, more than 16 million trees were planted on little more than 12.5 thousand acres of land. In 1940, the record 1,107,071 pine and spruce seedlings were planted.

Today the Forestry and Outdoors Committee oversees the management of 231,572 acres. The department staff has evolved to twelve people, which includes an administrative secretary, five foresters, a scaler, and five equipment operators with a full complement of construction equipment.

In 2004, the county forest brought in a record $2.2 million in gross timber sale revenue. We are able to enjoy these benefits because of the vision of a county board in 1930 and the management of the county forest for more than 70 years. The Forestry Department continues to closely manage the county forest with timber harvest that provides natural regeneration and plant trees so that future generations can enjoy the recreational and economic benefits of the Marinette County Forest.

John Neilio
Marinette County
Forestry and Parks Administrator

Marinette County Forest Master Plan Update

Marinette County Forestry Department is about half way through the process of writing a new Forest Management Plan. This 10-year plan will cover the management cycle 2006-2015. It should be noted that there has been legislation introduced to allow County Forest Plans to run for a 15-year period in the future.

A Forest Management Plan describes how Marinette County Forest will be managed along with all the policies and procedures, which are involved.

This process has been started with a public informational meeting, which was held on February 19, 2004, all comments received have been noted for the record. The major comment or concerns included:

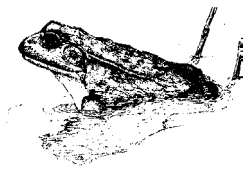
- A no-cut buffer along Class I Trout Streams
- Identify Natural Communities on County owned lands
- Concerns about rare, threatened, and endangered species

We have completed drafts of seven chapters, which have been approved by the Forestry & Parks Committee. A staff member using a state accepted template as a guide rewrites each chapter. The chapters are then reviewed by a core committee, which is made up of County and DNR staff members along with interested stakeholders. Completed drafts are then send to the Forestry & Parks Committee for their review and approval at regular monthly meetings, which are open to the public.

This process will continue for the five remaining chapters. When the Forestry and Parks Committee approve the entire plan, we will schedule a public hearing, hopefully later this year, for final public comment. The final draft will then be submitted to the DNR for their approval and then the Marinette County Board for adoption.

We continue to solicit public comment throughout this process. We can be contacted in person at the Forestry Department Office in the courthouse, by phone (715) 732-7525 or to review the plan and submit comments go to:
www.marinettecounty.com/forestry_masterplan.htm

Nature's Almanac



July 6

By the time July arrives, frog songs exist only as memories of spring. The ear-splitting calls and trills that emanated from crowded ponds are now long gone, but one frog that began calling in late spring still calls. The green frog plucks out its call, often compared to the twang of a loose banjo string, well into the midsummer nights.

The green frog gets its name from the green color that usually appears on the head or face. The body colors vary, and many times, despite their name, these frogs are not green. The green frog is often called a bullfrog. They are about the same color, but the green frog is much smaller with a three-inch-long body.

Highly aquatic, our green frog is not likely to be seen far from large bodies of water. It plucks its banjo on the shores of lakes, rivers, and wet swamps where it breeds.

July 13

A couple of lesser-loved critters of midsummer are the deerflies and their larger cousins, the horseflies. We identify these insects as flies because they have only two wings; most insects have four.

Horseflies are large and may reach a length of one inch; deerflies are about half that size. Each has huge colorful eyes and mostly clear wings. A close look shows us that the wings are quite beautiful.

While the males are content to feed on nectar and the pollen of flowers, the females use their sharp mouthparts to cut skin and suck the blood oozing from the wound. To form eggs, these females need more protein than is found in flowers. Many mammals including humans, serve as blood donors, and these flies are named for common victims. We know deerflies as the bugs that fly around our heads and even get caught in our hair as they try to bite. Horseflies are more direct in their flight and bite ankles and legs rather than heads.

Both flies winter as aquatic predatory larvae, pupate in the spring, and emerge in June to spend the midsummer in wet areas. Strong fliers, they range widely.

July 27

Forest fires create open spaces that allow plants to colonize quickly and reach for the sunlight that freely penetrates the forest floor. Fireweed gains its name because it is an early resident in these burned-over sites, but fire is not necessary in order for this five-foot tall purple-flowered plant to invade. Any open space will do, so throughout the northland, fireweed patches fill gaps along the margins of woods and meadows.

A long tapering cluster of rose-purple blossoms sits atop the erect leafy stem of this plant. They bloom profusely, but the one-inch flowers don't all open at the same time. Flowering proceeds from low in the cluster to high, and thus fireweed flowers tell of the season's progression. By late July, the climb has neared the middle. With their rich purple blossoms, fireweed patches in full gloom demand attention from all passersby. Hummingbirds and insects, especially bumblebees, are constant fireweed visitors.

By fall, even the top flowers will fade into long pods of fluffy seeds that will be dispersed by the autumn winds to open sites.

From, "Backyard Almanac," *by Larry Weber; illustrations by Judy Gibbs*

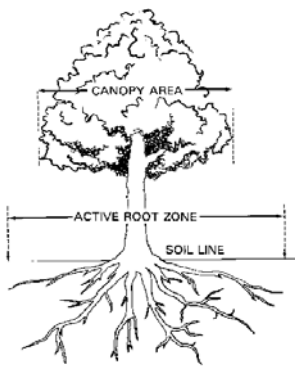
Successful Tree Planting

By Scott Reuss, UWEX Ag/Horticultural Agent

Successfully planting and establishing a new tree or shrub in our landscapes is not extremely difficult, but there are many things that can go wrong for our plants if we don't pay attention to a few details while planting.

Step #1 Buy quality plant material. Make sure to purchase adapted tree species and cultivars. Ask the nursery where you are making the purchase how long it has been in the container or in the burlap. If they can't tell you, don't buy it. The shorter that it has been in a container, the better, as the root system will have a better chance of establishing well if it has not over-developed within the container.

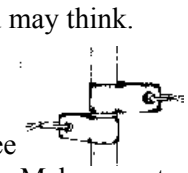
Step #2 Examine the root system. Either take as much burlap off the ball as possible, or take the tree out of the container and find out where the root flare is and where any long roots are located. The root flare determines your planting depth, and the long roots dictate the size/shape of your planting hole. The root flare is the area where the roots naturally curve away from the trunk. Just as in the diagram, you want the root flare area to be just above the soil line. However, be careful that you don't get fooled, as trees which have been in pots for awhile will often grow false roots that come straight off the stem. These need to be pruned off and you need to make sure to plant at the actual root flare. Also, be aware that the average nursery-sold tree has about 4 to 6 inches of potting material above the root flare, so you will usually need to dig down to expose the flare. If planted too deeply, many tree roots will grow vertically to find oxygen and then start growing correctly, however some of them will end up girdling the trunk when they do this, causing tree stress and premature death. Wherever there are roots that are growing around the outside of the pot/burlap, actually pull them away from the soil and straighten them out (carefully so as to not damage them).



Step #3 Dig the right hole. Now that you know the shape and size of the root system, you can efficiently dig your planting hole. Dig only as deep as needed to have the root flare at the soil line, and dig trenches to place any long roots into the soil, instead of digging an entire area.

Step #4 Fill the hole. Of course, the tree is first, but make sure to take all plastic, wire, and twine off the tree, and as much of the burlap as possible should be cut away prior to lowering the tree into the hole. Double-check the depth and that there are no curled roots prior to starting to fill the rest of the space with soil. Use only soil from the planting site to fill in the hole. Putting compost, potting soil, fertilizer amendments, or other similar materials often creates an artificial pot that the tree roots will try to remain within, creating an unstable tree. Carefully refill the hole and once you think you're done, run water in the area and actually slowly and carefully rock the tree back and forth in the wet soil to try to remove any air bubbles that may have formed while you filled the hole. Air pockets are bad news for the roots, so this step is more important than you may think.

Step #5 Stake the tree. Using broad materials as shown here and two (or three) stakes, support the tree loosely for the first year of growth. Make sure to remove the supports after the first year, as they will damage the bark and cause the root system to develop improperly if left on too long.



Step #6 Mulch and maintain. Use about 3-4 inches of organic mulch, but keep it away from the trunk of the tree. What does that mean? When you are adding the mulch, your final sweep of the area with a rake or your hand, go around the trunk of the tree and scoop away the mulch so that it isn't touching the base of the tree. This is very important, as the area needs good air circulation. How wide should you mulch? As wide as you can. I usually say to the drip line on newly transplanted trees if possible. If anything, mulch keeps lawnmowers and weed whackers away from the trees. Banging into the tree will create wounds and disease organisms can easily move in. Continue to water as needed until the soil freezes. This is true no matter what time of the year you planted. Tree wrap should only be placed on trees during the winter to assist in preventing sun scald of young thin-barked trees and meadow vole damage. If you do use wraps, make sure to remove them in very early spring. Note: You should not fertilize the first year. However, after that first year, make sure to fertilize outside the original root area.

If you have questions about tree planting or any other horticultural issues, call Scott or Linda at the Marinette County UW-Extension office (715-732-7510 or 877-884-4408), or send digital photos of the problem to Scott at *scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu*

Suggestion Box

Let us know how you think we can make this a better publication. Contact us at:

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Marinette, WI 54143
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akostner@marinettecounty.com
www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike."

-John Muir (1838-1914)

Where in Marinette County?

Tell us where this picture was taken and you could win a prize!

Send us a note including your name, address, and phone or go to *www.marinettecounty.com/lw_home.htm* to give us your answer.
Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome.
Please respond by July 11, 2005
Correct answers will be entered into a drawing to win a **butterfly house**.

Congratulations to Mary Riddell of Marinette who knew where June's contest site was located. This statue of Isaac Stephenson sits along Marinette's Riverside Avenue on the bank of the Menominee River. Incidentally, the house he built is directly across the street. The following information on Stephenson was found in the Library of Congress. "Born in New Brunswick, Isaac Stephenson (1829-1918) followed his interests as a lumberman, sailor, and entrepreneur to Bangor, Maine, and later to the northern woods of Wisconsin. In 1858, he purchased a one-quarter interest in the North Ludington Lumber Company in Marinette and went on to become that community's leading citizen. He founded the Stephenson National Bank, donated the Stephenson Public Library, developed the town's retail and commercial district, and used his involvement in local politics as a springboard for state and national office. Stephenson served in the Wisconsin State Assembly (1866-1868), as a U.S. Representative from Wisconsin (1883-1889), and also as a U.S. Senator from that same state (1907-1915)."

Invasive Species Profile: Curly-Leaf Pondweed

By Kendra Axness, UWEX Basin Educator

Exotic species are plants and animals that spread into an ecosystem beyond their normal range. Exotic species can come from another watershed, state, country, or continent. Invasive species are plants and animals that, once established, take over an ecosystem because they are able to out-compete other species for habitat. Both native and exotic species can become invasive if the conditions are favorable for them.

What is curly-leaf pondweed?
Curly-leaf pondweed is an exotic and invasive aquatic plant that has spread to lakes in Wisconsin. Its distinguishing characteristics are its serrated leaves with ruffled edges (like lasagna noodles). Serrations are tiny but visible. Before the arrival of Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed was the most severe nuisance aquatic plant in the Midwest.

Where is it from?
Curly-leaf pondweed is native to Eurasia.

How far has it spread?
Curly-leaf pondweed was introduced to the U.S. during the mid-1800s along with the common carp in the northeastern states. By the 1930s, it had spread to the Great Lakes region. It is found in lakes throughout Wisconsin. Marinette County was thought to not have it, but it has just been found in Upper Scott Flowage on the Menominee River, upstream from Marinette.

Why is it a concern?
Curly-leaf pondweed is able to grow in low light conditions and under the ice and even snow-covered ice. It is one of the first to grow and blooming in spring and dies off by late June or early July. When in bloom, it grows quickly and can create a mat of vegetation near the surface that clogs boat motors and makes the lake unappealing for swimming. When it dies, it decomposes in a process that consumes oxygen. The oxygen depletion can harm fish and other aquatic organisms. Once the plant is in a lake, it spreads quickly and is costly to control.

How does it spread?
Curly-leaf can spread within a waterway most effectively by vegetative buds called turions, which form on this plant later in the late spring prior to plant decline. The turions lie dormant until September when they germinate and produce winter foliage. Curly-leaf pondweed can be carried from lake to lake by boaters who don't clean weeds off their motors. It can also be spread by migrating waterfowl, intentional planting for waterfowl and wildlife habitat, and potentially as a contaminant in water used to transport fishes and fish eggs to hatcheries.

How can I help prevent the spread of curly-leaf pondweed?
To prevent the spread of curly-leaf pondweed and other invasive species to new inland lakes, boaters should take the following steps before leaving the boat landing:

- Remove all visible mud, plants (even fragments!) and fish/animals.
- Drain lake and river water from all equipment (including motors, jet drives, live wells, boat hulls, scuba tanks and regulators, boots, waders, and bait buckets) before transporting anywhere.
- Do not release or put plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Don't release anything to storm drains, because these often drain directly to lakes and some organisms can survive even when they appear to be dead.
- If possible, rinse boat and equipment with high temperature, high pressure water.

For more information about stopping aquatic hitchhikers, visit *www.protectyourwaters.net* on the Internet.

Managing Curly-Leaf Pondweed

The best management strategy is to prevent the introduction of the plant by following the procedures mentioned on this page. Once curly-leaf pondweed is introduced into a lake, it can be managed by harvesting or raking. If either is attempted, it should be done prior to turion development earlier in spring. Herbicides can be effective but treatments need to be repeated over several seasons to succeed. The latest management with herbicides, such as Endothall, is to treat in early spring to decrease impact on other species that are not growing and kill plants prior to producing the turions. **Before implementing a management program, lake residents should check with their DNR aquatic plant management specialist to find out what permits are needed.** It is important to note that some management techniques can harm native beneficial aquatic plants, so some planning (i.e., development of a plant management strategy) is usually required.

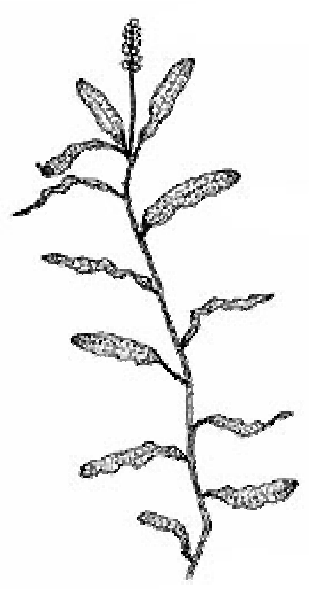
MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about curly-leaf pondweed and how to manage it, or to find out what permits are needed to apply management strategies, contact your DNR aquatic plant specialist. Marinette County residents can contact Greg Sevener, WDNR Watershed Biologist /Aquatic Plant Management Specialist, at 715-582-5013.

How to Identify Curly-Leaf Pondweed

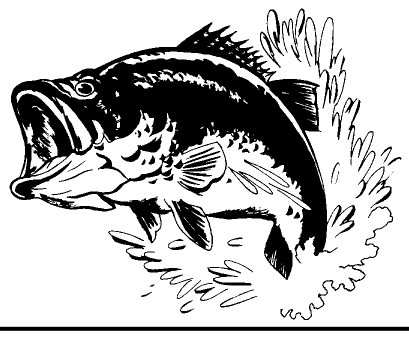
(Potamogeton crispus)

- **Stems**: Flattened and branching; 40 to 80 centimeters long and mostly 1 to 2 millimeters wide.
- **Leaves**: Simple, long, narrow and attached directly to the stem; somewhat stiff and crinkled; approximately ½ inch wide and 2 to 3 inches long; olive green to reddish brown in color.
- **Flowers:** Brownish and inconspicuous; stalks, when present, stick up above the water surface in June.
- **Look-alikes:** Can be confused with clasping-leaf pondweed and other species within the *Potamogeton* genus.



Curly-leaf pondweed is a submersed aquatic perennial with submersed leaves only (some pondweed species have both submersed leaves and floating leaves). It grows in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, and can thrive in shaded, disturbed, polluted or turbid waters. It typically begins growing in early spring before most other aquatic plants bloom, then declines and spends the warmer months in a dormant state. It propagates mainly by turion (detachable bud for overwintering) and creeping rhizomes. It also produces seeds, but it is unknown how important the seeds are in spreading the plant.

Fish Tales



Beyond Fish Cribs: A New Look at Fish Habitat Management

By Chuck Druckrey, Water Resources Specialist

Fish cribs. If you are familiar with Marinette County lakes in the winter you have probably seen them before, sitting on the ice like large unruly Lincoln-Log houses, brush and sticks poking out at odd angles. In years past the DNR might have built the cribs but recently it is probably the work of a local sportsman club or lake association. The purpose of the cribs is to provide fish habitat, and while they do have some value, they are a poor substitute for the natural habitat they are intended to replace. According to local fisheries biologist Justine Hasz, fish cribs primarily concentrate adult fish, making them easier to catch, but they do little to improve spawning or survival of juvenile fish. The problem is that fish cribs must be placed in deep water so they are not a hazard to navigation. At such great depth the water temperature is too cold for spawning and the cribs are too far and disconnected from the shallow nursery areas favored by juvenile fish.

Another common habitat tool is the half-log structure. As the name implies, half-log structures are simply green logs sawed in half lengthwise. They are wired to concrete blocks and placed in shallow water with the flat side down. The blocks hold them eight to ten inches off the bottom of the lake. Half-logs provide spawning substrate for minnows and cover for spawning bass and bluegill. While better than cribs, they still fail to provide food and cover for small fish.

So, what can a concerned angler or landowner do to improve fish habitat on their lake? To answer this question the DNR and University researchers throughout the Midwest have been looking at undeveloped lakes to see what makes good habitat and comparing them to more developed lakes to see what's missing. What they found is that natural shorelines are very complicated and messy places with lots of fallen trees and aquatic plants in the water, abundant wetland vegetation in the shallows and plenty of overhanging trees, shrubs and grass on the shore. By contrast, the average developed shoreline and the water in front of it has fewer aquatic plants, less overhanging shoreline vegetation, and a complete lack of trees and large woody habitat in the water. It's this last one, fallen trees, which may be the key to healthy lakes and quality fisheries.

One of the most important studies is currently taking place in Vilas County, Wisconsin. Greg Sass and other researchers with the UW Center for Limnology divided Little Rock Lake in two with a fish barrier curtain and removed all large woody habitat from one basin, leaving only those that were too deep or buried in the sediment. The lake is undeveloped and shoreline vegetation and aquatic plants are the same in both halves of the lake. Only two years after tree removal the results are dramatic. In the basin where trees were removed, the perch population crashed to nearly zero and largemouth bass were forced to change their diets from perch to insects. The change has lead to a drastic decline in the growth rates of largemouth bass. Although it is still early in the study, it is believed that the habitat loss and poor body condition will lead to declines in bass reproduction as well.

In a related study, the same researchers added trees to nearby Camp Lake, which is also undeveloped but had very little woody habitat. Similar to Little Rock, Camp Lake also has two basins but this time they were left connected so fish could swim between them. In March of 2004 trees were place on the ice every 30 feet along the shore of the south basin. The results were immediate. After ice out, the lakes bass population voted with their fins and virtually abandoned the north basin in favor of the newly improved habitat to the south. According to researchers, every tree had one or more bass nests next to it while in the north basin bass nests were difficult to find.

Large woody habitat in Kimlark Lake, Marinette County

So, what is it about a fallen tree that is so important to fish? When they first fall in the water, the fine branches provide a very complex network for young fish to hide in. Algae and insects quickly colonize the tree and provide food for these young fish. For many years the larger branches will hold the tree off the bottom and provide places for perch and minnows to spawn. Perch hang their eggs on branches to keep them out of the sediment while fathead minnows attach their sticky eggs directly to the underside of the trees. Even after the trees have settled to the bottom, they provide shade and cover for nest builders such as bass and bluegills. And of course, any fisherman will tell you that fallen trees of all shapes and sizes attract large predators such as bass, walleye and northern pike that lie in wait near the submerged trunks to ambush any smaller fish that stray to far from the protection of the branches.

While these two studies clearly illustrate the value of fallen trees in the water, others have looked at the connection between land, trees, lakes and people. In one study, Canadian researchers aged trees in a wilderness lake and found that the average white pine log had been in the lake for 271 years. Remarkably, the oldest tree had fallen in the lake more than 1,000 years ago when it was nearly 500 years old. White pine is particularly valuable as habitat since a high percentage of the logs float, often for hundreds of years. On this same lake, it was found that logging early in the century removed all of the old growth pine from the shores of the lake and no new pines had fallen in the lake in the last 120 years. This same study found that hemlock and cedar also provide habitat for hundreds of years while hardwoods decay much more quickly.

It should come as no surprise that studies on developed lakes show that large woody

Local Fish Habitat Restoration Project a Success

In 1999, the Marinette County LWCD with the Town of Stephenson and Newton Lakes Association restored nearly 700 feet of shoreline habitat on Little Newton Lake. The project included restoring a previously filled wetland and placing several tree drops in the lake for fish habitat. Now, six years later, the wetland is used by frogs and other amphibians and is often swarming with newly hatched fish. The oak trees placed in the lake have decayed significantly but still provide cover for spawning fish. A surprising bonus is the effect the tree drops had on the aquatic plant population. Protected from waves, boats and personal watercraft the area around and between the trees collected leaves and other organic matter. This nutrient rich sediment provided the right habitat for rushes and other emergent plants to take hold. The restoration area now represents some of the best fish and wildlife habitat on Little Newton Lake. You can see the project north of the swimming beach along Newton Lake Road.

cover is almost nonexistent in front of developed lots. It seems one of the first things people do when the buy a lake lot is to clean it up by hauling all the dead wood out of the water. Lots are further "improved" by cutting up dead trees and thinning the woods to improve visibility. Even when mature trees are left, we often see lake lots with a greatly reduced shrub layer and few if any saplings to replace the older trees as they die. This gets to the heart of the connection between lakes and shorelines. All of these changes result in a loss of woody habitat now and a reduced opportunity for trees to become fish habitat in the future. In short, we have simplified the shoreline, and if nature teaches us anything it's that simple is bad. When it comes to habitat, complex and messy is good.

Fish cribs and half-logs are both intended to provide the habitat function of downed trees, however, neither is a very good substitute. So what is a shoreline property owner or angler to do? The long-term answer is to stop managing our shorelines to meet our needs alone and think also of the fish. This means leaving natural shorelines wherever possible. Remember, this year's brush is next century's trees. And, when a tree falls in the lake let it be. A clean lakeshore is not a fish friendly place.

Of course, waiting several centuries for trees to grow old, die and then hope they fall in the right direction may not be your preferred option. For those who want more immediate results, some DNR biologists suggest you speed the process by importing trees to your lake. The benefit of bringing in outside trees is that you don't rob the shoreline of its existing trees and you can "drop" them where they won't interfere with your dock and swimming area. Of course, this is a job best done in the winter when heavy machinery can operate on the ice. To maximize benefits you should consult your local DNR fish biologist. They can identify habitat components that may be lacking on your lake and make additional recommendations for improving fish habitat.

Don't Forget the Permit

If you want to install tree drops, fish cribs, half-log structures or spawning reefs you will need to get a permit from the Wisconsin DNR. The permit costs $50.00. As part of the permitting process local fisheries staff will have a chance to comment on the project so consulting them in at the start just makes sense. In Marinette County, call the Peshtigo DNR office at 715-582-5000. Applicants must identify where the structures will be installed and they must be placed on or in front of the applicant's property.

What's In Season

Home Grown Produce in Marinette County

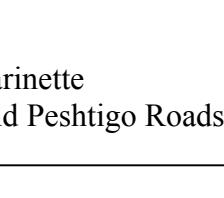
Strawberries
(mid June – early July)

Wojtkiewicz Strawberry Acres
715-854-7818
4½ miles west of Crivitz on Cty W to Hideaway Lane
PYO only; Mon-Sat 7-noon, 4:30-7p.m.

Russ & Ron Coble
715-582-3668
Market stand at King of Clubs, corner of Hwy 41 and Oconto Ave, Peshtigo
Tuesday – Friday, some Saturdays

Jandt Brothers
715-789-2264
N3439 Jandt Road, Peshtigo

Sweet Corn
(late July – August)



Jim VandeHei
715-735-7807
W2210 Rader Road, Marinette
(Corner of Rader and Old Peshtigo Roads)

Spokes & Folks Bicycle Club

www.spokesandfolks.com

Guests are welcome, helmets are required, and lights are recommended on some rides.

Ride Schedule

Sunday Morning Breakfast Rides
A club favorite! Bring your family, bring your appetite. Riders will ride to and from breakfast for a social ride great for all levels. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Jim Shane's house: 2801 Parkridge, Marinette.

Wednesday Fast Rides
This is a super fast drop ride. Anyone can join, but if you aren't keeping up, you will be left behind, or dropped. Speeds will be 20 mph and higher. Meet at Cycle Path bike shop in Menominee at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Easy-Pedals in Peshtigo
The pace is easy, suitable for children, beginners and recreational riders. Rides are 10 – 15 miles long. Club provides free bike inspections, adjustments, and tips. Meet at Badger Park, Peshtigo, at 6:00 p.m.

Vern's Cloverleaf Century - July 23
Three ride loops, each 25-40 miles long, meet back at Marinette City Park pavilion. Stop for refreshments between loops. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the park. See more details at *www.spokesandfolks.com.*

Luigi's Ride – July 28
This ride will start at the Lata's house at 5:30 p.m. and end at a specially prepared dinner at Luigi's in Peshtigo. Lights required. Call the Lata's at 725-5961to reserve your spot for dinner.

Area Events Calendar

July 2-4 — **City of Marinette 4th of July Celebration**
Parade, fireworks, children's activities, music, food.

July 9 — **Hemlock Curve Nature Trail Grand Opening**
Peshtigo Harbor Wildlife Area. Open house 9 – 11 a.m. Walk the trail, talk to nature guides, enter for prize drawing. Refreshments available. *See article on front page for more details.*

July 9 — **Aurora MACC Run**
5K run/walk and 10K run along the shores of Green Bay. Contact the Marinette Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-236-6681.

July 14-17 — **Cruisin' 50's Concert & Car Show**
Green Acres Campground, W3525 Peters Rd., Marinette. Tickets $25. Four days of camping, concessions and national entertainers. Contact 715-789-2130.

July 15-17 — **Masters Walleye Circuit Fishing Tournament**
Friday night activities on Stephenson Island, Marinette. Tournament Sat – Sun at Menominee (MI) Marina. For more information call 1-800-236-6681.

July 16 — **Wagner Fire Fighters 25th Annual Picnic**
Menominee River County Park, Hwy 180 & Cty X. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Food, drink, raffles, prizes, horseshoe tournament, children's games, live music.

July 19 — **Building a Water Garden Workshop**
Harmony Arboretum, 6 – 8:30 p.m. Hands-on instruction on building a water garden from scratch. Free. Registration requested at 715-732-7784 or *linda.warren@ces.uwex.edu.*

July 23 — **Aaron Johnson Memorial Golf Tournament**
Cramer's Vernon Hills Golf Club, Hwy 41, Peshtigo. Contact 715-582-9200.

July 26 — **Plant Pest ID Clinic**
Harmony Arboretum, open house. Bring your plant, insect, and disease samples to Scott Reuss, UW-Extension Ag/Horticultural Agent, for answers to your plant problems.

July 30-31 — **Brown Trout Derby**
Menominee Memorial Marina. Contact 906-863-2679.